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Meaningful Giving. Measurable Impact

MP | SOCIAL IMPACT FORUM

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9 SEPTEMBER 2026

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https://bit.ly/lic-event-movie

THE PEOPLE DOING THE HARDEST WORK HAD NEVER BEEN IN ONE ROOM

Across Madhya Pradesh, thousands of people wake up every day to get a girl back into school, keep a sapling alive through its first summer, or help a village earn a living without leaving home. Some of India's most effective non-profits work here. Yet most of them had never met each other.

The **MP Social Impact Forum 2026** set out to change that. For one day, **120+ leaders from 70+ grassroots non-profit organizations** sat together to ask a bigger question: what are the developmental issues that MP faces and what could we do together that none of us can do alone?

The idea behind it is simple. Lasting change is rarely the work of lone heroes. It comes from ecosystems, where non-profits, government, funders, businesses and communities pull in the same direction.

FROM PURPOSE TO ACTION

Dr. Himanshu Rai, Director of IIM Indore, set the tone with a question every founder, social or commercial, has faced: what stops us from acting on what we believe in?

Drawing on the Mahabharata and the Bhagavad Gita, he identified three barriers: money, self-doubt and the fear of failure. His message was simple: know yourself, take responsibility, use everything you are capable of. Then act, and let go of your attachment to the outcome.

PANEL 1 | EDUCATION & LIVELIHOOD

India has largely won the enrolment battle. The panel was about what comes next.

Moderated by **Smita Jha**, Strategy, Governance & Social Impact Advisor, with **Pranjal Dubey** (Founder & Chairman, SSISM), **Bharat Sharma** (Government Partnerships State Lead, Educate Girls), **Priya Nadkarni** (Co-founder, MRIDA Education and Welfare Society), **Amit Kumar** (Team Coordinator, PRADAN) and **Priya Khola** (Program Lead, Rocket Learning).

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Education & Livelihood Panel

What emerged was a clear picture of why a child who is enrolled still falls behind, and what actually helps:

- **The obstacles are practical, not just academic.**
  An unsafe route, no transport, or a family that needs one more pair of hands at home can quietly end a child's education long before any exam does.
- **Aspiration is a learning tool.**
  A mentor, a role model or a place on a sports team can give a child the confidence to stay, participate and aim higher.
- **The system already exists. Strengthen it.**
  Anganwadis and ICDS reach almost every village. Community-led solutions and closer government–non-profit partnerships can make that reach count for more.
- **School has to lead somewhere.**
  Learning only pays off when it connects to skills, jobs and livelihoods. Otherwise the promise of education rings hollow for families who sacrificed for it.

PANEL 2 | ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY

Moderated **by Saatvika Bhargava**, Founder & Director, Let It Count, with **Satyasovan Das** (MP State Head, Foundation for Ecological Security), **Anurag Saha** (Senior Project Officer, Centre for Environment Education), **Satender Kumar** (Co-founder, Grow Billion Trees) and **Rishiraj Purohit** (Senior Program Manager, Samarthan).

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Environment Panel
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The panel pushed past the headline numbers:

- **Count what survives, not what's planted.**

  Real impact is measured over years, in living trees and healthier ecosystems not the number of saplings planted.

- **Respect the landscape.**

  A grassland is not a failed forest. Solutions must fit the land they are meant for and the communities they serve.

- **Make nature pay for the farmer.**

  Regenerative agriculture, agroforestry and circular models work best when they also raise rural incomes. That is when they last.

- **Circular economy**

  It is much more than a policy buzzword. It's a joint transition in behavior, policy and economics.

THE TOOLKIT: FOUR MASTERCLASSES ON BUILDING ORGANISATIONS THAT LAST

The second half of the day shifted from big-picture to practical questions: how to build, stay compliant, finance and fund the work.

"Build around what's already there"

Tanmay Mukherji | Lead Strategy for Entrepreneurship, Rainmatter Foundation

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Tanmay spent 25 years in manufacturing before turning to grassroots innovation, including work with Sonam Wangchuk in Ladakh. His message: the best rural enterprises are built on local strengths. When local resources, skills, markets and money are connected, value stays in the village, and so do the young people who might otherwise migrate to cities in search of work.

“Know the rules of the game”

Noshir H. Dadrawala | CEO, Centre for Advancement of Philanthropy

With more than four decades advising non-profits and philanthropies, and a seat on the Advisory Board of the International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL), Noshir decoded the rules that can make or break an organisation: FCRA, CSR, Compliances, Reporting, Schedule VII and what recent regulatory changes really mean.

“Money comes in more shapes than grants.“

Smita Jha | Founding CEO, Centre for Effective Governance of Indian States

Drawing on three decades across Deloitte, BCG, Genpact, consulting and government, including building CEGIS from scratch, Smita introduced Blended Finance: combining grants, catalytic capital, public funding, guarantees and outcome-based funding so that each rupee unlocks more. If you cannot explain your work clearly, even the best work struggles to find backing.

“Don’t chase donors. Build relationships.”

Snigdha Raha | Associate Director Office of Advancement, Indian School of Business

Snigdha has spent 15+ years building institutional partnerships and donor communities, including at ISB. She reframed fundraising as relationship-building: find donors whose interests match your mission, understand what they care about, write proposals that speak to it, report impact honestly, and turn one time supporters into long-term partners.

THE BIG PICTURE

Measure outcomes, not activity.

Children reading, trees surviving, families earning. Not just enrolments, saplings or increasing numbers.

Context beats templates.

What works in one district, landscape or community may fail in the next. Localized opportunities play a big role

SIX IDEAS WE'RE TAKING HOME

Communities are partners, not beneficiaries.

Change lasts when the people it is meant for help design and run it.

Strong systems are not bureaucracy

Compliance, data and clear communication are what let good work survive and scale.

Diversify the money.

CSR, individual giving, blended finance and deep donor relationships together build resilience.

No one can do this alone.

Government, non-profits, communities, philanthropy, academia and business each hold a piece of the solution.

WHAT'S NEXT

THIS WAS A BEGINNING, NOT AN EVENT

If you care about how a state of more than 8 crore people learns, earns and protects its land this is a community worth watching, and worth joining.

Want to be part of the next edition, as a non-profit, funder, CSR partner or volunteer? Write to us at

✉ **contact@letitcount.com**

www.letitcount.com